CLAIMS

1. An image processing system including: a scanner for reading a document image; and a terminal apparatus connected to said scanner in a manner permitting communications so as to transmit an operation instruction to said scanner; wherein

said scanner comprises: first fingerprint information reading means for reading the fingerprint information of an operator; and first fingerprint information storing means for storing temporarily the fingerprint information read by said first fingerprint information reading means;

said terminal apparatus comprises: second fingerprint information reading means for reading the fingerprint information of an operator; and second fingerprint information storing means for storing temporarily the fingerprint information read by said second fingerprint information reading means; and

both of fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint information stored in said first fingerprint information storing means with the fingerprint information read by said second fingerprint information reading means by means of communications between said scanner and said terminal apparatus; and operation permitting means for permitting the operation of said scanner in response to the operation instruction inputted through said terminal apparatus on the basis of the result of collation in said fingerprint information collating means are provided either in said scanner or in said terminal apparatus, or alternatively any one of said fingerprint information collating means and

said operation permitting means is provided in said scanner while the other one is provided in said terminal apparatus.

2.　The image processing system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein when collation by said fingerprint information collating means is matches, said operation permitting means permits the operation of said scanner in response to the operation instruction inputted through said terminal apparatus.

3.　The image processing system as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said scanner comprises: document image reading means for reading document image before receiving said operation instruction; and associated information generating means for generating associated information in which the document image information read by said document image reading means and the fingerprint information read by said first fingerprint information reading means are associated with each other; and

associated information storing means connected to said scanner in a manner permitting communications so as to store the associated information generated by said associated information generating means is further included.

4.　The image processing system as set forth in Claim 3, wherein a server provided with said associated information storing means is connected to said scanner and said terminal apparatus in a manner permitting communications.

5. The image processing system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein either said scanner or said terminal apparatus comprises: associated image information collating means for collating the document image information read by said document image reading means with the image information contained in said associated information of a past time; associated fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint information stored in said first fingerprint information storing means with the fingerprint information contained in said associated information of the past time; and operation inhibiting means for inhibiting the operation of said scanner when the collation by said associated image information collating means matches and the collation by said associated fingerprint information collating means does not match.

6. The image processing system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said scanner and/or said terminal apparatus comprises associated information deleting means for deleting said associated information when reading operation of image by said scanner is completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image by said scanner completed.

7. The image processing system as set forth in Claim 6, wherein when a document is removed before the reading operation of the image by said scanner is completed, said associated information deleting means does not delete the associated information generated for the removed

document.

8.   The image processing system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

said scanner comprises: document image reading means for reading

document image before receiving said operation instruction; and associated

information generating means for generating associated information in

which the document image information read by said document image

reading means and the fingerprint information read by said first fingerprint

information reading means are associated with each other; and

associated information storing means connected to said scanner in a

manner permitting communications so as to store the associated

information generated by said associated information generating means is

further included.

9.   The image processing system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein a

server provided with said associated information storing means is

connected to said scanner and said terminal apparatus in a manner

permitting communications.

10.   The image processing system as set forth in Claim 9, wherein

either said scanner or said terminal apparatus comprises: associated image

information collating means for collating the document image information

read by said document image reading means with the image information

contained in said associated information of a past time; associated

fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint

information stored in said first fingerprint information storing means with the fingerprint information contained in said associated information of the past time; and operation inhibiting means for inhibiting the operation of said scanner when the collation by said associated image information collating means matches and the collation by said associated fingerprint information collating means does not match.

11. The image processing system as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said scanner and/or said terminal apparatus comprises associated information deleting means for deleting said associated information when reading operation of image by said scanner is completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image by said scanner completed.

12. The image processing system as set forth in Claim 11, wherein when a document is removed before the reading operation of the image by said scanner is completed, said associated information deleting means does not delete the associated information generated for the removed document.

13. The image processing system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein either said scanner or said terminal apparatus comprises: associated image information collating means for collating the document image information read by said document image reading means with the image information contained in said associated information of a past time; associated fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint

information stored in said first fingerprint information storing means with the fingerprint information contained in said associated information of the past time; and operation inhibiting means for inhibiting the operation of said scanner when the collation by said associated image information collating means matches and the collation by said associated fingerprint information collating means does not match.

14. The image processing system as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said scanner and/or said terminal apparatus comprises associated information deleting means for deleting said associated information when reading operation of image by said scanner is completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation of image by said scanner completed.

15. The image processing system as set forth in Claim 14, wherein when a document is removed before the reading operation of the image by said scanner is completed, said associated information deleting means does not delete the associated information generated for the removed document.

16. A scanner connected to a terminal apparatus in a manner permitting communications so as to receive an operation instruction for reading a document image, comprising:

fingerprint information reading means for reading a fingerprint information of an operator;

fingerprint information storing means for temporarily storing the

fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading means;

fingerprint information collating means for collating the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading means with a fingerprint information acquired by said terminal apparatus by means of communications with said terminal apparatus; and

operation permitting means for permitting the operation in response to the operation instruction inputted through said terminal apparatus on the basis of the result of collation by said fingerprint information collating means.

17.   The scanner as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising fingerprint information deleting means for deleting the fingerprint information from said fingerprint information storing means when reading operation of image is completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation completed.

18.   The scanner as set forth in Claim 17, wherein when a document is removed before the reading operation of the image is completed, said fingerprint information deleting means does not delete the fingerprint information from said fingerprint information storing means.

19.   A terminal apparatus connected to a scanner in a manner permitting communications so as to transmit an operation instruction for causing said scanner to read a document image, comprising:

fingerprint information reading means for reading a fingerprint

information of an operator;

fingerprint information storing means for temporarily storing the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading means;

fingerprint information collating means for collating a fingerprint information acquired by said scanner with the fingerprint information read by said fingerprint information reading means by means of communications with said scanner; and

operation permitting means for permitting the operation of said scanner in response to the inputted operation instruction on the basis of the result of collation in said fingerprint information collating means.

20. The terminal apparatus as set forth in Claim 19, further comprising fingerprint information deleting means for deleting the fingerprint information from said fingerprint information storing means when reading operation of image by said scanner is completed or when a predetermined time has elapsed before reading operation by said scanner completed.

21. The terminal apparatus as set forth in Claim 20, wherein when a document is removed from said scanner before the reading operation of the image is completed, said fingerprint information deleting means does not delete the fingerprint information generated for the removed document from said fingerprint information storing means.